
LESSON 13

OPERATIONAL MANEUVER FROM THE SEA AND SHIP-TO-OBJECTIVE MANEUVER

Our strategy and policies continue to evolve as we learn from our recent experiences and prepare for new challenges and new opportunities of this highly dynamic world. Naval forces have five prevailing roles: protection of power from sea to land, sea control and maritime supremacy, strategic deterrence, strategic sealift, and forward naval presence. We will continue each of these roles in support of the National Security Strategy.

-- *Forward...From the Sea*, 1994

OMFTS is a marriage between maneuver warfare and naval warfare...[It] will couple doctrine with technological advances in speed, mobility, fire support, communications, and navigation to identify and exploit enemy weaknesses across the entire spectrum of conflict.

-- *Operational Maneuver From The Sea*
Concept Paper, 1996

Introduction

Purpose	This lesson introduces you to the concepts of operational maneuver from the sea and to ship-to-objective maneuver, especially as they relate to the emerging naval doctrine for littoral (expeditionary) warfare.
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Why Study Operational Maneuver From The Sea?	Operational maneuver from the sea is a new concept. It requires an open mind for it to be successfully included in planning that takes advantage of our enhanced capabilities for future amphibious operations.

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Introduction, Continued

**Relationship to
Other Instruction**

This text is relevant to

WTransitioning from an examination of existing amphibious doctrine and planning processes to the introduction of emerging concepts regarding future roles, missions, and capabilities for executing amphibious operations.

WExpanding your knowledge of amphibious operations and to provide you with additional possibilities for the operational use of amphibious forces.

WLessons on maneuver warfare, expeditionary logistics, amphibious operations command and control, and ship-to shore movement and the amphibious assault. While this lesson introduces emerging concepts and doctrine, the direction for future amphibious operations has already been established.

Study Time

This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 3 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Littoral Warfare	Discuss the emerging naval doctrine for littoral (expeditionary) warfare. [JPME Area 2(b)]
Relationships	Explain the relationship between the concepts of operational maneuver from the sea and ship-to-objective maneuver and their application. [JPME Area 3(b)]
Integration of Core Concepts	Discuss how these core concepts of emerging naval doctrine can be integrated with doctrine of other services. [JPME Areas 2(b) and 2(d)]
Ship-To-Objective Maneuver	Explain the difference between ship-to-objective maneuver and the current joint doctrinal ship-to-shore movement. [JPME Areas 2(a), 2(b), and 2(d)]
Improvements and Capabilities	Explain the improvements and capabilities required to execute ship-to-objective maneuver.
Future Relationships	Discuss the future command relationships between the Commander, Amphibious Task Force (CATF) and the Commander, Landing Force (CLF).
JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	2/a/0.3 2/b/0.5 2/d/0.5 3/b/0.2

Discussion

White Paper

In September 1992, the Navy and Marine Corps produced a white paper entitled *From the Sea*. This paper changed the focus for both services away from blue water operations and towards power projection and the employment of naval forces to influence events from littoral regions of the world.

In effect, this white paper influenced and oriented the Navy policy book and Marine Corps master plan on naval expeditionary forces and joint operations.

For both services this represents a renewed interest in the littoral areas of the world and operations in brown water areas close to shore.

Naval Doctrine Publication 1

As this concept matured, so did the basis for several Navy-Marine Corps development decisions such as the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), Advanced Assault Amphibian Vehicle (AAAV), and the MV-22.

Additionally, the Department of the Navy continues to transform the concept into doctrine.

In March 1994, Naval Doctrine Publication 1 (NDP-1) was signed by both CNO and CMC. The publication outlined the principles under which the services organize, train, equip, and employ forces.

NDP-1 was the first in a series of six foundation documents for naval forces translating the vision and strategy of the white paper into doctrinal reality. Since the publication of NDP-1, books 2, 4, and 6 have been published and, as of this writing, book 3 is in draft form.

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Discussion, Continued

Forward- Deployed Naval Forces

In the period since *From the Sea* and NDP-1 were written, the Administration provided expanded guidance on the role of the military in the national defense in a major review of strategy and force requirements.

The review reflected a shifting focus within the Department of Defense to new threats in the post-Cold War world, including aggression by regional powers and the requirements to rapidly project decisive military power to defend friends and allies. The review emphasized the importance of maintaining forward-deployed naval forces and reaffirming the roles of the naval forces in supporting national strategic objectives through strategic deterrence, sea control, maritime supremacy, and strategic sealift.

Forward From the Sea

Based on this new guidance, the Secretary of the Navy, CNO, and CMC published *Forward...From the Sea* in 1994 to address the five broad naval contributions to national strategy.

Central to this new paper is the concept of Operational Maneuver From the Sea (OMFTS), the application of maneuver warfare to amphibious operations. OMFTS describes how American naval forces will fight and control the littorals in the future and provides the basis for contemporary Marine Corps combat development decisions. It focuses on amphibious power projection and, in doing so, "articulates the size and shape of our service for the next century."

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Discussion, Continued

Use of These Concepts

These are not new concepts. The ability to use OMFTS and STOM effectively requires an open mind to include our enhanced capabilities in planning future amphibious operations. As an example, consider the integration of CVs with ARG operations, adaptive force packages as a force multiplier, or the development of the MV-22, AAV, and improved LCAC.

Deception Operations

A critical item of planning during the initial planning conference is the requirement for *deception operations*. Deception operations are essential to the accomplishment of surprise in almost any successful amphibious assault. Without deception, enemy intelligence could easily predict the selected beach(es) for the assault landing.

Required Readings

Amphibious Operations Readings

"Operational Maneuver From The Sea, A Concept for the Projection of Naval Power Ashore." *Marine Corps Gazette*, July 1996. Find this reading in the *Amphibious Operations Readings*, Annex H, pp. H-3 to H-8. Like its predecessor, the approach to amphibious warfare developed at Quantico during the 1930s, OMFTS is a response to both danger and opportunity.

"Commentary on OMFTS." *Marine Corps Gazette*, July 1996. Find this reading in the *Amphibious Operations Readings*, Annex H, pp. H-9 to H-11. This report explores the significance of strategic changes on many of the technological and operational aspects of the services' ability to implement their revised mission.

Pierce, Terry (Commander), USN. "Taking Maneuver Warfare to Sea." *Naval Institute Proceedings*, April 1995. Find this reading in the *Amphibious Operations Readings*, Annex H, pp. H-13 to H-16. The increased complexity and shorter decision cycles of operational maneuver from the sea demand the collaboration and cohesion of an integrated staff.

Ship-to-Objective Maneuver (STOM) Outline. Find this reading in the *Amphibious Operations Readings*, Annex H, pp. H-17 to H-41. This paper introduces the factors that have influenced the development of the concept and the principles of OMFTS.

Pierce, Terry (Commander), USN. "The Naval Expeditionary Force." *Naval Institute Proceedings*, November 1993. Find this reading in the *Amphibious Operations Readings*, Annex H, pp. H-43 to H-45. The Navy and Marine Corps have introduced the concept of the naval expeditionary force (NEF) as a way to dominate littoral areas.

FMFM Readings

FMFM 6, *Ground Combat Operations*, chapter 4. Find this reading in the *FMFM Readings* (8800), pp. 369 to 374. Applying the principles of maneuver warfare to expeditionary operations, OMFTS can exploit the extraordinary operational mobility offered by naval expeditionary forces. By conducting a seamless operation from the sea to the objective, this exploitation takes place without loss of momentum.

For Further Study

Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

wJoint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*.

wJoint Pub 3-02, *Doctrine for Joint Amphibious Operations*.

wJoint Pub 3-02.1, *Doctrine for Joint Landing Force Operations*.

wJoint Pub 3-04, *Doctrine for Joint Maritime Operations (Air)*.

wATP 8, *Doctrine for Amphibious Operations (Combined Operations)*.

wFMFM 1-7, *Supporting Arms in Amphibious Operations*.

wFMFM 1-8, *Ship-to-Shore Movement*.

wNaval Doctrine Pub 1, *Naval Warfare*.

wFMFRP 14-7, *Over-the-Horizon (OTH) Amphibious Operations Operational Concept*.

Issues for Consideration

Operational Maneuver From the Sea	Is operational maneuver from the sea dependent on emerging technology or can it remain a viable concept even in the absence of the AAV, MV-22, precision munitions, etc.?
Littoral Warfare	What is "littoral" warfare, and how is it shaping the roles, missions, training, and equipping of the Marine Corps?
OMFTS	What are the principles of OMFTS?
Ship-To-Objective Maneuver	Is ship-to-objective maneuver merely a repackaging of current amphibious doctrine with special emphasis on new technology?
Sustaining and Supporting	How will landing forces conducting ship-to-objective maneuver be sustained and supported without a lodgment (beach support area, force beach head, AOA) ashore?
CATF	Currently, one of the main responsibilities of the CATF in amphibious assaults is to command and control the difficult and complicated process of ship-to-shore movement. If the ship-to-shore movement is largely replaced by ship-to-objective maneuver, to what degree will the responsibilities of the CATF change? What about the traditional CATF/CLF relationship?